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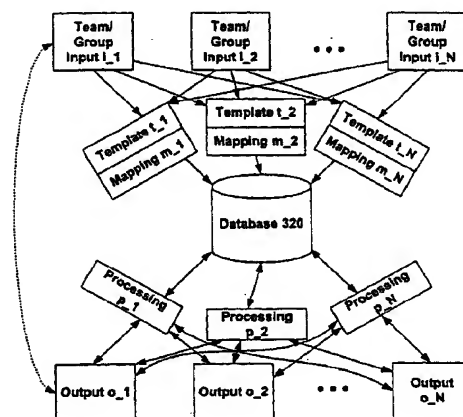
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(54) **Flexible system and method for standardizing communications and decision-making across multiple business processes**

(57) A technique and system are provided whereby modeling of decision-making in a business process, such as research and development, sales, accounting, engineering and human resources activities, is computer network-enabled whereby data communications, storage and processing of business process data is standardized. Automatic or manual inputs for a business process are standardized and updated centrally and continuously and automatically or manually input. Outputs or reports generated from the business process data storage may be automatically generated according to preset criteria or generated upon request. Because all of the processes are centrally managed, e.g., through a network, a plurality of business processes may be collectively or retrospectively analyzed e.g., to assess the accuracy of assumptions used during the progression of the processes. A virtual office is provided whereby members can enter data, information, documents and the like, which may be done on or off-line. Efficient progression of individual business processes, as well as ef-

fective management of a business process portfolio, e.g., optimizing of resource allocation, is thus achieved.

FIG. 3





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 4 November 2003	Examiner Lavin Liermo, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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